

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- According to the present invention, an appliance for protection against impact and strain injury includes a plurality of mutually overlapping interconnected plates of an impact resistant material attached to or adapted to be attached to an article to be worn about a part of the body such as to permit limited relative movement between the plates; characterised in that at least some of the plates are aligned and movable along a common backing member; and in that means are provided for removably mounting the appliance on an article to be worn. --

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 11 on page 3.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 4:

-- Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of part of the appliance of Fig. 1; --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Fig. {2} 3 illustrates an appliance made in accordance with one embodiment of the invention and shows a means of attachment of the appliance to a garment; --

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line 13 on page 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to Fig. 2, ~~{in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, the panels 12 are constructed such as to be removably attachable to the sock 10 or to any article to be worn about a part of the body to be protected. Thus,}~~ the plates shown here at 15

are arranged in overlapping relationship and each attached, for example by stitching, to an elastic backing member or ligament 16. ~~{In this embodiment the}~~ The stitching can be seen at 17 whereby relative movement of the plates 15 is afforded only by the resilient nature of the ligament 16. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 7 and continuing to page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [Accordingly,] According to a first embodiment the appliance is constructed independently of the article to which it is to be attached and may thus be applied to the article at any selected location. Tapes 18 of hook and loop fastener such as that sold under the registered trade mark VELCRO are permanently attached to a central ligament 16 in the two end regions thereof whereby the appliance can be readily attached to, and detached from, the garment. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 on page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The ~~{elasticated nature of the}~~ ligament 16 ~~{maintains}~~ may be elasticated so as to maintain the plates 15 in the correct relative orientation but ~~{allows}~~ allowing for relative movement between them as the appliance bends, due to the flexible and resilient nature of the ~~{ligaments}~~ ligament. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 on page 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to Fig. 4, in this example the appliance is wholly enclosed within a mesh pouch 22 closed by VELCRO strips 23 attachable to VELCRO strips 24 permanently affixed to the sleeve 19. In this case, there is no need for the user to wear additional clothing outside the pouch 22 unlike the embodiment in [Figs. 2 and 3] Fig. 3 where it may be considered necessary

or desirable to wear another sock outside the appliance. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 on page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to Fig. 15, ~~in a further embodiment the removable appliance consists of an array of overlapping rigid plates 48 as in previously described embodiments. In this case~~ the plates shown here at 48 are individually threaded as at 49 onto a single flexible tape or ligament 50. The two end plates are preferably stitched or otherwise permanently attached to the ligament 50 as shown at 51. A strip 52 of VELCRO is applied over the ligament 50 and may have a self-adhesive backing surface 53 thus to become bonded to the ligament 50 and each of the plates 48. Thus, the appliance is self-contained and attachable to the sock 45, or to any other sleeve or garment bearing such a strip as illustrated at 55 in Fig. 14. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to Fig. 16, in an alternative arrangement the ligament 50 is replaced directly by a strip 56 of VELCRO [which may be attached to any or all of the plates 48 by stitching and/or bonding] upon which the plates 48 are threadedly engaged. In some cases the surface characteristics of the VELCRO strip are sufficient to retain the plates 48 in fixed relative disposition along the strip but for additional security the two end plates may be stitched to the strip. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 on page 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to Fig. 17, it will be seen that the plates 15 may be threadedly mounted on [(or stitched to)] a pair of ligaments 60 (which may be elasticated or strips of Velcro) arraigned

in spaced parallel disposition along the appliance, thus to assist in the prevention of the individual plates from twisting or rotating, but still affording adequate relative movement between them. Two ligaments also serve to prevent the side regions of the plates from lifting and maintain the assembly of plates in correct alignment and degree of overlap. Alternatively, a single broad ligament can be provided. --